



## **Bronx**

Targeted Research Enhancement Program

Director: Joan D Penrod, MSW, MA, PhD

### **Executive Summary for Fiscal Year 2008**

The TREP was established at the James J. Peters VAMC in Bronx, NY on July 1, 2002. Its mission is to conduct research to improve processes and outcomes of care for veterans with serious physical and mental conditions. We define serious conditions as those associated with a high risk of death or disability, often accompanied by several additional comorbid conditions, in which functioning is severely compromised and the functional limitation is either unremitting or remission is periodic and temporary. In the past year we added a new focus on transitions in care across health care delivery settings (hospital to nursing home, ICU to medical ward) and systems (VA to Medicare provider). Although inter-site and inter-system care transitions may accommodate the care needs of patients with complex conditions, many are associated with errors in communication, preventable adverse events, and patient, caregiver, and provider dissatisfaction.

Our program contributes to the VHA mission to provide high quality, effective, efficient, and accessible health services to all veterans in all health care venues. Improving health care delivery across settings, systems and providers of care for veterans with complex chronic conditions is an HSR&D research priority. Our focus on the unique needs of sicker patients leverages the resources of the TREP, the Bronx VA Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center (GRECC), the Bronx VA Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center (MIRECC) and Mount Sinai School of Medicine (MSSM) Departments of Geriatrics and of Psychiatry.